

Woodbury City Update

August 2021 • Volume 22, No. 7



Follow Woodbury's new, temporary lawn-watering rules DNR asks cities to reduce water use

With more than 70 percent of Minnesota experiencing severe drought and many areas experiencing extreme drought, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is requiring local water suppliers to reduce water use in their communities.

The city implemented new, temporary lawn-watering rules in late July. Visit woodburymn.gov/WateringPolicy for details. These restrictions could be elevated further should drought conditions continue to grow in severity.

Current state drought information is available on the DNR website at dnr.state.us/climate/drought. Review current lawn-watering restrictions at woodburymn.gov/WateringPolicy.

Irrigation controllers

If you have an irrigation controller, it should be reprogrammed to water

on the new day(s) or use the manual setting to operate the system on the appropriate day. If you purchased a Rachio smart irrigation controller through the city, tips on running your system are available via the Rachio Help Center at rachio.com.

If you don't have a smart irrigation controller, consider purchasing one at a discount offered to Woodbury residents. These controllers, certified by the Environmental Protection Agency to save at least 20% of your outdoor water use, work by connecting to your home Wi-Fi and are controlled by your smartphone. Typically retailing for \$230, the city's program allows you to purchase a Rachio Smart Irrigation Controller for only \$35 and have it shipped directly to your home. Purchase a controller by visiting woodburymn.gov/SmartIrrigation.

2022 city budget to be discussed at Sept. 15 workshop

The City Council will review the proposed 2022 city budget at a workshop meeting scheduled Wednesday, Sept. 15, at the Public Safety Building. The meeting, which is open to the public, will start at 4 p.m. and continue into the evening until all department budgets have been evaluated.

At the workshop, the Council will discuss city services and funding levels for 2022, as well as a variety of issues that affect the 2022 property tax levy. Information about the budget will be available on the Woodbury website (woodburymn.gov/Budget) and through the Administration and Finance Department at City Hall several days prior to the workshop.

"If residents and businesses want to learn more about the proposed budget and provide input, they should attend the workshop," explained Mayor Anne Burt. "The public will have the option of attending in person or virtually."

Woodbury's budget process follows a timetable established by state law. The City Council must set the maximum tax levy by Sept. 30. This is the amount published in the truth-in-taxation notices mailed out by Washington County, usually in mid-November. The Sept. 15 workshop permits thorough

review of projected expenses and revenues in advance of the Sept. 30 deadline.

State law also requires the city to hold a public discussion on the budget. This discussion is tentatively scheduled for Dec. 8. However, citizens interested in the Council's most detailed dialogue about the budget are urged to attend the September workshop, which will be held in the Public Education Room at the Public Safety facility, 2100 Radio Drive.

Virtual participation

The public also has the option of participating in the meeting online using a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device. Questions and comments may be submitted via the online Q&A feature within the virtual meeting. Links to the virtual participation options will be shared at woodburymn.gov/virtual-meetings when the meeting agenda is posted on the city's website. Refer to the Participating in a Virtual Meeting Guide on the city's website for more information.

For more information, contact the Administration and Finance Department at 651-714-3500 or finance@woodburymn.gov.





Council Perspective

By Mayor Anne Burt

Social worker joining Public Safety to assist with mental illness and chemical health calls

The volume of mental health related calls to 911 has risen substantially over the years nationally, including here in Woodbury. These types of calls can be some of the most complex situations faced by law enforcement today.

Our Police Department developed a Community Support Unit that is improving the quality of service we provide for these calls. The intent is to bridge the gap between 911 calls for a crisis situation and connecting the people in crisis - and their families - to the help they need to cope with these situations for the long term.

I'm excited to share that we now have additional resources to help with this important initiative. In June, the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved the addition of two social workers to county staff to assist the Sheriff's Office and the Woodbury Police Department when responding to calls that may involve those with a mental illness or chemical health needs.

The new employees will work within a co-response model, which typically consists of law enforcement personnel and mental health professionals working together to respond to calls involving mental health or chemical health needs. This could be a real-time response to an active crisis or a follow-up contact/case management service following an incident.

The benefits of this model are associated with reduced pressure on the justice system and stronger links to community supports. Co-responder models have positive, measurable effects on how law enforcement and other first responders handle mental health crises. Individuals in crisis report feeling less threatened and stigmatized in interactions with co-response teams as compared to interactions with law enforcement alone.

The model proposed is a ride-along hybrid. In this model, a law enforcement and a mental health professional respond to incidents together, with incidents consisting of active crisis situations and follow-up case management services for mental health incidents.

Each position will cost approximately \$100,400. One of the positions is fully funded with money from federal and state governments, and the Woodbury Police Department. This position will work directly with the Woodbury Police Department. The second position will be funded by federal and state money, and \$65,600 in county levy funds, and work with Washington County's Sheriff's Office.

The positions are expected to be hired in late 2021 or early 2022.

Public Safety strategic initiative

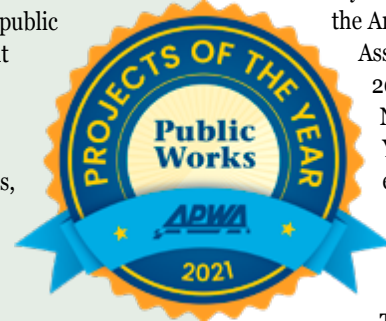
This new social worker position at Public Safety is one outcome from our Public Safety strategic initiative identified by the City Council in 2019.

We analyzed our Public Safety response model and identified ways we needed to adapt and enhance how we provide public safety services.

With our community diversifying and aging, there are impacts to service demands and how services are provided. The public safety environment is also changing and will continue to change due to local demographics, service demands, labor negotiations, city growth and development, how services are funded, city staffing and succession, state and national political influence and more.

Researching these issues and learning how they may affect services helps the City Council make informed, long-term and strategic decisions regarding not only the city Public Safety Department, but the public safety of the community.

These new positions represent a critical step forward in effectively providing public safety services across the county and here in our community. They will provide significant expertise in supporting our first responders as they continue to serve and protect our community with compassion and courage.



Woodbury earns APWA 2021 Public Works Project of the Year award

The City of Woodbury earned the American Public Works Association's (APWA) 2021 Public Works National Project of the Year Award for the emergency construction of the temporary water treatment plant.

The facility, located near the intersection of Valley Creek Road and Tower Drive, is treating water from four wells to meet water quality standards and guidelines for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

"The award recipients exemplify infrastructure projects that are planned, designed, constructed, and maintained to advance the quality of life for all in their communities," said APWA President Mary Joyce Ivers. "I am proud and inspired by all of our public works members who continue to deliver outstanding, selfless services to their communities, even in times of a pandemic and emergencies."



The city's temporary water treatment plant was placed into operation in June 2020.

Seven of the city's 19 wells were removed from service since 2017 due to PFAS levels that were above federal and state water quality standards and guidelines.

"Bringing four of the seven wells back into service allows the city to meet the increased demand for water dur-

The Woodbury newsletter is published 10 times per year by the City of Woodbury and mailed to all residents and businesses. Send comments to: Woodbury City Hall, 8301 Valley Creek Road, Woodbury, MN 55125-3330. Phone: 651-714-3500. Email: jason.egerstrom@woodburymn.gov.

Mayor: Anne Burt. Council Members: Andrea Date, Steve Morris, Jennifer Santini and Kim Wilson. City Administrator: Clint Gridley. Communications Manager: Jason Egerstrom.

The City of Woodbury is subject to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act. In accordance with the act, the Woodbury newsletter is available in other formats. Call Jason Egerstrom, 651-714-3500; TDD: 651-714-3568.

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Klein named new Woodbury emergency medical services/fire chief

Chris Klein is Woodbury's new emergency medical services (EMS)/fire chief.

Klein, who was promoted from his fire/EMS commander post, will be responsible for directing basic and advanced life support emergency medical services, fire response, prevention and inspection, emergency preparedness and safety services, along with associated staff and programs.



Chris Klein

Klein joined the city as a paid-on-call firefighter/emergency medical technician in October 2001. He was promoted to a full-time firefighter in 2004, earned his paramedic license in 2007 and was named fire/EMS commander in 2018.

Klein's experience as a paramedic will prove valuable in his new role.

"In Woodbury, more than 70% of fire/emergency medical services calls are medical related," Woodbury Public Safety Director Lee Vague explained. "As the average age of our community members continues to rise, we expect our calls for medical service to continue to increase. So it was important to have someone in this role with extensive experience with both medical and fire calls, and Chris is an excellent fit."

Woodbury provides its own advanced life support ambulance service and does not contract services out to a private ambulance service, which often respond to multiple communities across vast territories. This allows for faster paramedic level response times since Woodbury ambulances are responding from within the com-

munity.

A Sheboygan, Wis., native, Klein holds a degree in education from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, where he played football.

"After playing football, I missed being a part of a team and building a culture together as a group," Klein explained. "That void was filled when I joined the city as a paid-on-call firefighter. Being a part of the team at the Public Safety Department over the years has been so gratifying and enjoyable. I look forward to continuing to build our team culture and tackling the challenges ahead."

Klein has lived in Woodbury since 2001 and has been an active leader in the Woodbury Athletic Association for more than a decade, serving as a coach and now directing its youth football program. He and his wife Tracy have a family that includes Klein's daughter, Quincie, and son, Carter, and Tracy's three sons, Mason, Jack and Adam.

Klein replaces John Wallgren, who retired June 30 after 31 years of service.



Practice range, civilian courses available at HERO Center

Do you know that you can reserve a lane on the shooting range, and take a civilian firearms or CPR course at the Health Emergency Response Occupations (HERO) Training Center in Cottage Grove?

Twelve, 50-yard shooting lanes are available for rent between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. The public is encouraged to log on to herocentermn.org/shooting-range to reserve lanes, fill out waiver forms and find pricing. Walk-ins also are accepted.

Safety officers are always inside the range during public shooting hours to help maintain a safe, family-friendly range environment.

To register for a firearms or CPR course, visit herocentermn.org or call 651-458-2811.

The HERO Center is located at 10125 85th Street South in Cottage Grove, adjacent to the Cottage Grove City Hall and Public Safety Building. The facility is jointly owned and operated by the cities of Cottage Grove and Woodbury.

APWA 2021 award...from page 2

ing the summer months," said Jim Westerman, the city's Assistant Public Works Director. "The remaining three wells will remain out of service at this time."

The water delivered to customers continues to meet all state and federal water quality standards and guidelines for PFAS.

The temporary water treatment plant, which would typically take about 18 months to two years to construct, was completed in about five months.

"In order to meet peak summer demand, it was critical the temporary water treatment facility was operational as quickly as possible," Westerman explained. "We would not be operating the facility today without the work and cooperation of the State of Minnesota, 3M, the City Council, numerous city staff, our engineering consultant

teams, and the construction expertise of the project contractor."

Long-term water treatment solutions

The temporary water treatment facility is expected to be in operation until a long-term water treatment solution can be implemented in the next five to seven years. Funds for the long-term solution are expected to be available from the \$720 million settlement the state received from 3M in 2018. The State of Minnesota continues to study long-term treatment options for several communities in the east metro area and is expected to share its recommendations with the cities this year.

About PFAS

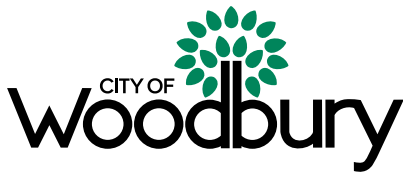
The 3M Company made PFAS at its Cottage Grove facility from the

late 1940s until 2002. PFAS wastes were disposed of at multiple sites in Washington County. The source of the PFAS in Woodbury's groundwater has been identified as these disposal sites.

All costs associated with the design, construction, and operation of the temporary water treatment facility for the City of Woodbury are being covered by grants through the State of Minnesota.

If you have questions about the city's water system and the impact of PFAS, visit woodburymn.gov/pfas or contact Public Works at 651-714-3720 or publicworks@woodburymn.gov.

APWA will recognize this year's Project of the Year Award winners in a video posted to apwa.net on Aug. 31.



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Temporary new watering rules

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Woodbury earns APWA award

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It's photo contest time again

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Postal Patron
Woodbury, MN

Sign up for fall and winter recreation programs

Join the fun this fall and winter with favorite, family-friendly programs and community events such as Big Truck Day, Halloween Hoopla, and Cookies and Crafts with Santa! Due to the ever-popular New Year's Eve Family Celebration selling out each year, Woodbury Parks and Recreation has added a new event: New Year's Eve Matinee. The new celebration will be geared toward children ages 3 to 7 and still include a countdown to 2022.

More details will be available in the city's fall recreation programs brochure, which will be mailed the week of Aug. 2. Online registration begins Wednesday, Aug. 11.

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Woodbury Days set for Aug. 20-22 in Ojibway Park

Thousands of people will come together the weekend of Aug. 20-22 for Woodbury Days - the annual community celebration that culminates the summer season.

Celebrating 42 years, Woodbury Days gets under way with carnival rides, games and food at 4 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 20, and continues through Sunday, Aug. 22. The weekend is jam-packed with activities and events for the entire family, with most of the fun taking place at Ojibway Park, adjacent to Woodbury High School.

Remember to wear your dancing shoes Friday and Saturday night as The Dweebs and Viva Knieval rock the band shell!

In addition, the City of Woodbury will have a booth at the Business Fair,



where you can visit with Mayor Anne Burt, City Council members, Public Safety personnel and other city staff. Stop by and ask a question, or just say, "Hi!"

The highlight of Sunday's schedule is the Grande Parade, which begins at 11 a.m.

For details, visit woodburysdays.com.



*"Love Between Father and Daughter" by Nadine Schultz
Readers' Choice winner, 2020 Focus on Woodbury photo contest*

Photo contest deadline is Aug. 31

The deadline to submit your favorite moments and creative imagery in the 23rd annual Focus on Woodbury photo contest is fast approaching. All photos must be entered online via Woodbury Magazine's website, woodburymag.com by Aug. 31.

On the home page of the website, select the photo contest tab, and complete the short form with required fields. Each participant may submit up

to five photos total, but no more than three in one category.

First place entries will be published in the city newsletter. Select photos also will be published in *Woodbury Magazine*.

Contestants must follow all rules or their entry will be disqualified. Questions should be directed to Hailey Almsted, editor, *Woodbury Magazine*, at hailey.almsted@tigeroak.com.